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CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CONTROL

COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1A

TOPIC Airfield of KOETHEN

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fld
688

EVALUATION [REDACTED]

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE PREPARED 2 August 1949

REFERENCES None

PAGES two ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

[Handwritten signatures]

SOURCE

25X1C Airfield of KOETHEN

28 May 1949

a. Single-engine fighters circled the KOETHEN (N 52/D 95) airfield.

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b. Passenger car [REDACTED] was approaching the airfield.

10 June 1949

2. a. In addition to previously observed army units, the following air force units were stationed at the KOETHEN airfield:

(1) fighter unit:

(a) Eighteen fighters, single-seater, low-wing monoplane, in-line engine, retractable landing gear, retractable tail wheel, red propeller hubs.

(b) Nine fighters, single-seater, low-wing monoplane, radial engine, three-bladed propeller, retractable landing gear and tail wheel, no special markings.

(c) The pilots were Soviet officers wearing many decorations.

(2) "Boston III" formation: Six to nine aircraft, four with yellow propeller hubs.

(3) Training unit: Twelve to fifteen biplanes, seven of which were observed. Pilot students were reportedly being trained in this unit, and weather reconnaissance flights were said to be conducted.

(4) Ground personnel: 200 to 250 men, wearing black-bordered light blue epaulets, some with propeller and wing insignia and some with crossed bars in silver.

b. About 20 sleeve targets or balloons, in several rows one behind another, about 35 feet apart, were observed at the

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airfield border in the direction of BASSDORF (K 52/D 95) on 4 June 1949. These balloons were fired at with live ammunition by both types of fighter aircraft.

c. Three Boston-IIIs and four biplanes, flying at an altitude of from 6,000 to 10,000 feet, were towing sleeve targets on 6 and 10 June 1949. They were attacked by about 20 fighters, equipped with auxiliary fuel tanks.

d. There was regular night flying with biplanes. According to a subsource, the Boston-IIIs also conducted regular night flying.

e. Motor vehicles assigned to these air force units and observed at the field [REDACTED]

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25X1C f. Security measures had been increased.

[REDACTED] 11 to 21 June 1949

3. a. The following aircraft were observed at the KOETHEM airfield:

(1) 12 June 1949: 14 Yaks, 4 fighters with radial engine, presumably LA-5s, 1 Boston-III, 6 biplanes.

(2) 19 June 1949: 11 Yaks, 6 LA-5s, 4 Boston-IIIs, 9 biplanes.

(3) 21 June 1949: 12 Yaks, 1 LA-5, 2 Boston-IIIs, 2 biplanes.

b. More aircraft were probably parked in the hangars.

c. There was no flying from 11 to 13 June 1949, in rainy weather. Firing from aircraft at balloons was practiced at the southern airfield border on 14 June 1949. Formation flying with up to nine fighters was observed from 17 to 22 June 1949.

d. A total of about 400 to 450 air force personnel were stationed at the field. Some wore the air force insignia in silver, others in gold.

e. The following trucks were observed at the airfield:

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4. [REDACTED] Comment:

The report, based on two sources, shows that the occupation of the KOETHEM airfield has not changed since the last observations, made from 25 to 27 May 1949. An air reconnaissance regiment and a fighter regiment are still assumed to be stationed there. The large number of U-2 planes observed is noteworthy. Probably these are being used for the training of replacements for the air reconnaissance regiment. The [REDACTED] support the assumption that the KOETHEM airfield is still occupied by the same units.

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